

Thursday, October 12, 1950

DUXBURY CLIPPER



Memories of Yesterday



Here are some childhood memories of a reader who wishes to remain anonymous:

"On the way to the Point School we usually crossed the ice on Blue Fish River, which was more fun than going over the bridge. Captain Parker Hall's schooner was usually in for the winter, and he made sure we reached the other side.

"At school, teacher tapped on the window with her wedding ring to call us. I recall that on winter days there were one or two apples on the stove to create a nice aroma. Teacher kept sugar teats in the drawer for babyish pupils, and another punishment was a spanking with a ruler. But there were times when teacher held us on her lap and fed us chocolates which she always seemed to have.

"As a girl I remember going to Peterson's Drug Store for anti-colic nipples and Walker-Gordon bottles. I remember, too, that it was our job to rush to the Fire Station and ring the bell when a call came that there was a fire.

"Across the bridge was Tony's Barber Shop, where the men gathered evenings to settle town and national affairs. We always waited for Papa to get there, then walked in and asked for favors. We felt sure he would be in a good mood and wouldn't refuse in front of his cronies. But how well I remember the morning his mood was something less than good!

"On this particular morning the coffee was boiling as usual, and Papa took his usual sip. "What in ——!" he bellowed. "What's this stuff? This is the third attempt on my life. You'll kill me yet!"

"Seems that the enamel coffee pot had been soaking all night with a solution of Sal-soda and water.

"That's how it was in Duxbury in the good old days."